GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Water Resources Department - Amendment to Section 34 of Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems Act, 1997 (Act 11 of 1997) – Appointment of an Expert Committee to study the Acts belonging to the other States and the performance of their Water Users Associations and Water Tax collections and to bring about the changes and to strengthen the Act– Orders -Issued.

WATER RESOURCES (CAD) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.198, **Date: 06.11.2015.**

Read:

From the Commissioner CADA, Lr.No.COM/CAD/EE/ DEE/APFMIS Act/Expert Committee, Dt:27.10.2015.

ORDER:

In the APFMIS Act 1997, the Farmers' Organisations consists of Water User's Associations, Distributory Committees and Project Committees. The Managing Committees of Water Users' Associations are permanent bodies and the members have a tenureof 6 years. Elections are to be conducted every two years for retiring members. Similarly, elections for Distributory Committees and Project Committees are also to be conducted every two years. The elections to the Water User's Associations were last conducted in January 2008. The elections to Distributory Committees were conducted in February, 2008 and elections to Project Committees for the first time were conducted in September, 2008.

2. The election to the Farmer's Organisations were not conducted in January, 2010 and the term of Management Committee of Farmers' Organisations was extended for a period of one year by the Government vide Act No. 1 of 2010 i.e., till January, 2011 and further extended the term of the outgoing President/Chairman of the Farmers' Organisations upto31.01.2012.

3. Government in G.O.Ms.No.20, I& CAD (CAD.1) Department , dated 12.02.2013 by a notification made transitional arrangements for the Water Users' Associations whose term is completed.

4. Government have reviewed the provisions of APFMIS Act, 1997 and decided to make transitional arrangements for effective collection of water tax and for effective implementation of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) works and other issues and accordingly amended the section 34 of the APFMIS Act , 1997 (Act 11 of 1997) for constituting the Managing Committee by conducting General Body meetings to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Farmers' Organisation. Accordingly General Body Meetings have been conducted and Management Committees for WUAs, DCs and PCs have been constituted.

5. In the reference read above, the Commissioner CADA has proposed to study the Water Users' Associations of other states where the performance of Water Users Associations and water tax collections are good.He has also proposed re-delineation of the Water Users Associations wherever necessary and to form new Water Users Associations for the newly completed projects and to constitute an Expert Committee to study the Acts and bring about the changes and strengthen the Act.

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6.In the circumstances stated above, the Government after careful examination, hereby constitute an Expert Committee with the following Members.

1. Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) --- Member
2. Engineer-in-Chief (AW) --- Member
3. PSR Subramaniam
   Engineer-in-Chief(Retd.) --- Expert Member.
4. Ch.Veeriah,
   Superintending Engineer, (Retd.) --- Expert Member.
5. Special Commissioner, CADA --- Member Convener.

6. The terms of reference of the Expert Committee are as detailed below:

i. To study the APFMIS Act and its implementation in A.P.

ii. To take up field study on the performance of WUAs andmaintenance of Water Bodies in A.P. and in other states.

iii. To suggest the ways of strengthening the WUAs in the state.

iv. To recommend any changes required in the APFMIS Act, 1997.

8. The Expert Committee shall complete the study within a period of 6 months from the date of issue of the G.O. and shall submit a detailed report to Government.

9.The Non-Official members of the Committee shall be paid sitting charges of Rs. 5000/- per day and travelling allowances either by Road, Rail or Flight or as per actuals which may be applicable to the Group A Officers.

10. The expenditure incurred above shall be debatable to the Head of Account: 2705 - Command Area Development - MH 001 – Direction and Administration – GH 11- NSP – SH (01) – Head Quarters Office 110 - Domestic Travel expenses 111- TA.

11. This order issues with the concurrence of the Fin.(FMU-W.R.I) Department vide their U.O.No.24351/80/W.R.I/15, dt:05.10.2015.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner CADA,
Water Resources Department, A.P.
All the District Collectors through Commissioner, CADA.
The Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation)
Water Resources Department, A.P.
The Engineer-in-Chief (AW)
Water Resources Department, A.P.
The Spl. Commissioner, CADA,
Water Resources Department, A.P.

Copy to:

PS to Prl. Secretary, Water Resources Department, A.P.
PS to Secy. Water Resources Department, A.P.
PS to Hon'bleMinister ,Water Resources Department, A.P.
PS to Secy.to Chief Minister.
Sc/Sf.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER